

ARLSON Conference, 20 August 1953.

1. On Thursday, 20 August 1953, between 2:00 PM and 3:45 PM, an ARLSON Conference was held in the SO Conference Room, 2065 I Building. Present at this Conference were ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ representing SO; ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ representing TSS; ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ representing the Medical Staff; ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ representing the Director's Office and OSI; and Mr. ~~[redacted]~~ representing DDP.

2. ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ opened the Conference by stating that Mr. ~~[redacted]~~ of SO and ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ were on a trip involving interrogation of returning POWs from Korea. The purpose of the trip was twofold — ~~[redacted]~~ was primarily interested in learning techniques by the Communists, planning to use this information in connection with an operation in his office. It was explained that ~~Mr. [redacted]~~'s interest was along similar lines and, in addition, anything that might be developed would be of interest to the ~~ARLSON~~ program. These interests were explained in more detail by ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ who stated that the ~~ARLSON~~ program was interested in any techniques or methods which could be used offensively or defensively.

3. ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ brought to the attention of the group a cable concerning the ~~ARLSON~~ supply of lysergic acid. This communication indicated that ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ intended to cease the manufacture of this chemical and indicated further that they would prefer that the present stock be sent to this country. ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ then discussed methods of possible procurement and advised that plans were being considered which would not involve the Agency.

4. ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ requested a round-table discussion of the review of ~~ARLSON~~ by interested areas of CIA and re-defining ~~ARLSON~~ responsibilities and aims. ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ presented a memorandum to the ~~ARLSON~~ committee which he had prepared as a recommendation for acceptance of these aims and responsibilities. ~~Mr. [redacted]~~ in a discussion of this memorandum suggested that

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the other offices' functions might be more clearly defined in order that the paper would clearly indicate that "we are all working together on a sound basis." It was decided that [redacted] would prepare a paper embodying the principles of [redacted] paper and those expressed in memoranda of the Director of Security dated 15 July 1953 and 25 November 1952.

5. [redacted] then injected the idea that further consideration should be given as to whether "brain washing" be named as a responsibility of [redacted]. His comments indicated a vast amount of interest, study and research on the subject but the lack of an assembly point seemed obvious. [redacted] commented that many offices were interested in the subject, [redacted] actively engaged in study and research and felt that [redacted] should not be delegated to accept this responsibility. [redacted] commented on the many ramifications of the "brain washing" methods and techniques and felt that some group should receive complete information for professional evaluation and dissemination of the information to all. A general discussion then followed with the decision that the subject of "brain washing" should have a clearing house within the Agency and that the [redacted] group is not in a position to accept this responsibility.

6. As mentioned in Paragraph 4, [redacted] suggested that the Chairman appoint a committee to review [redacted] paper with the thought in mind that aims and responsibilities of each office, including the Director of Security, be more clearly defined, and the paper finally to indicate positively that we are working in complete harmony. Further commenting, [redacted] agreed that [redacted] original paper covered certain points quite well but agreed that other offices have responsibilities which should be accepted. [redacted] also recommended that more extensive exploration of certain chemicals be carried on. He stated that this is something tangible and "something we can sink our teeth into."

7. At this point, [redacted] of the Medical Staff made it known that he was familiar through past experience with the application of nyltal and pentothal. He further stated, in his opinion, we don't have a weapon which is ready to use. In agreement with [redacted], [redacted] felt that research should be initiated promptly so we can evaluate the use of chemicals, either known or unknown, thereby enabling us to state positively whether or not we have a weapon of value. [redacted] further added that as previously discussed, he felt that he had made an overture to secure permission to set up testing and research facilities within the Agency to help evaluate material developed. This has not been approved by the Director as yet.

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8. At this point, [redacted] commented on the formation of teams and strongly recommended that these teams gather all information of value in order that it could be disseminated to all.

9. [redacted] suggested that a proposal be drawn up in writing as to how exactly research using Agency personnel would be carried on for presentation to the Director. He then suggested that a committee of [redacted] and one member of the Medical Staff prepare such a proposal for review.

10. [redacted] again brought up the subject of [redacted] and advised that Top Secret clearance had been obtained through the Security Office and he felt that if [redacted] were properly briefed, his services could be utilized further and recommended that he be permitted to conduct such a briefing. This was unanimously approved.

11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:45 PM. The next meeting was scheduled for 24 September 1953 at 2:00 PM in the SO Conference Room.

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